



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

FACT SHEET

November 2007

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Program

The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 created the Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops (TASC) Program and authorized the use of \$2 million of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) resources in each fiscal year from 2002 through 2007.

How the Program Benefits U.S. Agriculture

TASC is designed to assist U.S. organizations by providing funding for projects that address sanitary, phytosanitary and technical barriers that prohibit or threaten the export of U.S. specialty crops. For purposes of the TASC program, a “specialty crop” is defined as all cultivated plants and the products, thereof, produced in the United States, *except* wheat, feed grains, oilseeds, cotton, rice, peanuts, sugar and tobacco. Examples of activities these grants may cover include seminars and workshops, study tours, field surveys, pest and disease research, and pre-clearance programs.

How the Program Works

TASC proposals are accepted from any U.S. organization, including, but not limited to: U.S. government agencies, state government agencies, non-profit trade associations, universities, agricultural cooperatives and private companies. The Foreign Agricultural

Service (FAS), which administers the program, provides grant funds as direct assistance to U.S. organizations. Applicant contributions are not required, but strongly encouraged.

Each year, USDA announces an application period for participation in TASC, publishing it in the *Federal Register*. TASC applications undergo a competitive review process. Funds are awarded to applicants that demonstrate how their project will overcome trade barriers resulting in market access retention and expansion for specialty crops.

Award maximums are \$250,000 per year, and for activities of up to three years. Proposals may target any eligible export market, including single countries or reasonable regional groupings of countries. Applicants may submit multiple proposals, but no TASC participant may have more than three projects underway at the same time. FAS sets a program funding level for each approved application and signs a program agreement with the participant. Funds may be requested as advance payments or on a reimbursement basis. Participants are required to maintain records associated with the program agreement. All

projects are subject to review by U.S. government officials.

Washington, DC 20250-1042; Phone: (202) 720-4327; on the Internet at:
<http://www.fas.usda.gov/mos/tasc/tasc.asp>.

Where To Get Information

To submit a TASC proposal or to find more about the program, contact the USDA-FAS Marketing Operations Staff AG Box 1042, 1400 Independence Ave., S.W.,

Information on FAS programs, trade data and reports is available by accessing the FAS Home Page at:
<http://www.fas.usda.gov>.

Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops Allocations Fiscal Year 2007

| Organization | Project | 2007 Allocation |
|---|--|--------------------|
| California Apple Commission | Taiwan Technical Trade Mission | \$13,878 |
| California Apple Commission | California Taiwan Inspection Program | 27,700 |
| California-Arizona Lettuce Export Council | Controlled Atmosphere Treatment | 35,000 |
| California Grape and Tree Fruit League | California Stone Fruit to Mexico-Mexican Regulatory Oversight | 159,900 |
| California Strawberry Commission | China Market Access Support | 18,828 |
| California Tree Fruit Agreement | Testing Low Hydrostatic Pressure (LHP) Technology | 18,550 |
| California Walnut Commission | UN/ECE Delegation Visit to Observe U.S. Walnut Industry | 4,800 |
| CALPOLY Corporation | Export Markets and California Agriculture: Understanding the Implications of Trade Barriers Applied to Citrus Products | 4,000 |
| Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association | US-Canada Pesticide MRL Harmonization Database | 60,880 |
| Ginseng Board of Wisconsin | Pesticide Research on Ginseng Root | 76,500 |
| Minor Crop Farmer Alliance (MCFA) | Global Minor Use for MRL Harmonization | 14,310 |

| Organization | Project | 2007 Allocation |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| National Potato Council | Fresh Potato Market Access -- China | 119,905 |
| Organic Trade Association & Sustainable Strategies | Gap Analyses | 174,000 |
| U.S. Apple Export Council | Mexican Work Plan Implementation | 528,500 |
| U.S. Apple Export Council | Mexico-Final Resolution of Inspection Process | 19,500 |
| U.S. Apple Export Council | Taiwan Inspection | 55,400 |
| USDA Agricultural Marketing Service | Codex Apple Working Group | 33,720 |
| Total | | \$1,433,371 |

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